

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9173

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, CU

SUBJECT: GETTING READY FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: REPORTS
OF A SOCIALIST BLOC STRATEGY MEETING IN HAVANA

1. DUTCH MISOFF (HEINEMANN) TOLD USUN JANUARY 20 OF A REPORT
HE HAD "INDIRECTLY, FROM RUMANIANS" OF A SOCIALIST BLOCK STRATEGY
MEETING HELD JANUARY 4-7 IN HAVANA UPON THE INITIATIVE OF MIQUEL
ALFONSO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CUBAN IO SECTION AND THEIR THIRD
COMMITTEE AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REP. ALL THE SOCIALIST
BLOC STATES WERE REPRESENTED, USSR REPRESENTED BY BIKOV (THIER
ALTERNATE REP IN THIRD COMMITTEE).

2. HEINEMANN SAYS THE GROUP MET TO EVALUATE THE THIRD COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE LAST GA, AND TO PLAN STRATEGY FOR THE UPCOMING
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC). THEY CONCLUDED THAT THE THIRD
COMMITTEE SESSION WAS BAD, THEY WERE SURPRISED AT THE INITIATIVES
BY NON-ALIGNED THAT THEY HAD NOT PLANNED AND BACKED, AND AT THE
GROWING INDEPENDENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED. THEY CONCLUDED THAT
THEY MUST RECAPTURE THE INITIATIVE AT THE HRC MEETING. TO THAT
END, THE SOCIALIST NATIONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE
HRC WERE URGED TO SEND STRONG DELEGATIONS OF OBSERVERS
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TO WORK THE CORRIDORS.

3. COMMENT. MIQUEL ALFONSO IS WELL KNOWN TO USUN AS
THE CHIEF, MOST ACTIVE, AND EFFECTIVE PRACTITIONER OF
THE ART OF BROKERING BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST, NON-ALIGNED
AND WESTERN POWERS TO ACHIEVE INFLUENCE FOR HIS VIEWPOINT.
SUCH BROKERING AND INTERPRETATION IS INEVITABLY COLORED

IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE DIRECT COMMUNICATION MORE DIFFICULT.
WITH THE CHANGE OF US POTURE ON MANY UN ISSUES, MIGUEL'S TASK
HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT AND OUR CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION
WITH THE NON-ALINGED HAVE BEGUN TO OPEN UP.

4. BECAUSE TRADITIONALLY SOME NON-ALIGNED SEND
RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL AND UNPREPARED DELEGATIONS TO THE
HRC (AND THIRD COMMITTEE) MEETINGS, THE TASK OF CUBA
(AND IRAN, WHICH SOMETIMES PLAYS THE SAME ROLE) IS MADE
EASIER. HIGHER LEVEL, MORE PREPARED DELEGATIONS WILL
PROBABLY MEAN INCREASING INDEPENDENCE AND WILLINGNESS
TO TAKE INITIATIVES ON THE PART OF THE NON-ALIGNED.
THE HEADWAY WE HAVE MADE IN RECENT MONTHS IN DISCUSSING
THESE ISSUES WITH THE NON-ALIGNED PROVIDES A SOUND BASIS
FOR INTENSIFIED APPROACHES TO THEM THAT WOULD BY-PASS
AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT FRUSTRATE THE BROKERING AIMS OF
CUBA. OUR MESSAGE TO THE NON-ALINGED, WHICH MORE AND
MORE OF THEM ARE BEGINNING TO ACKNOWLEDGE, IS THAT OUR
VALUES AND GOALS ARE NOT ALWAYS IN CONFLICT WITH THEIRS.
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